GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3774
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2000
SHORTAGE OF CONTRACEPTIVES
NIVEDITA MANE;SUNDER LAL TIWARI

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the enormous increase in population in Backward States like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Orissa has been the result of the dearth of contraceptives;

(b) if so, the time since when the contraceptives are in shortage in these States alongwith the percentage and reasons therefor;

(c) the measures taken by the Government to meet this shortage and the date on which the measures taken;

(d) whether most of the women in the country lack knowledge about contraceptive methods;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the action plan prepared by the Government to bring awareness among women about the use of contraceptive methods?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)
(a) to (c) Contraceptives like the Copper-T, Oral Contraceptive Pills and Condoms are procured centrally and supplied to the State Head Quarters. Procurement is guided by opening stocks with the States, as well as the utilisation during the year.
The distribution down the line from the State Head Quarters to the districts, and from thedistrict headquarter to the Primary Health Centres and Sub-Centres is the responsibility of the State Governments.Often there arise shortages within the states on account of uneven distribution within the State. Adequate supply of Copper-T and Oral Contraceptive Pills havebeen made to the States. However, in the case of condoms, Department of Family Welfare is able to meet only 50% of the total demand for free supply due to budget constraints. Nevertheless, shortages if any, are made good with supplies of condoms from the social marketing programme. To overcome the problem of uneven distribution, monitoring is being done regularly. Districts report their stock position to the State Head Quarters, and States divert supplies in accordance with shortages, and request for higher procurement, as necessary.

(d) & (e) As regarding awareness and knowledge among women the results of the National Family Health Suvey-2 (NFHS-2) conducted in 1998-99 reveal that 99% married women have knowledge about one or another method of contraceptives, as opposed to 95.8% in 1992-93.

(f) Efforts are made to use diverse mode of mass media to increase awareness about the use of contraceptives and to bring about changes in health seeking behaviour. Several radio programme and spots on Doordarshan and films are frequently relayed with specific messages on health care. Additionally, local specific IEC is also undertaken at district levels by the State Governments. All these efforts combined have made a difference.
Percent of currently married women who know any contraceptive method.

NFHS-1	NFHS-2
1992-93	1998-99
95.8	99.0